



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Public Hearing: **February 14, 2019**
 Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony submitted by: **The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**
 Chief James Kenny

S.B. No. 702 AN ACT Concerning The Transfer of Law Enforcement Agency Records Between Agencies

The following written testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association in favor of Raised Bill 702, "An act concerning the transfer of law enforcement records between agencies".

In recent years the police departments in the state have been dealing with incidents which frequently cross jurisdictional lines. Offenders are not limited in their endeavors by town or state lines. Often departments are dealing with these offenders with the knowledge that neighboring agencies have information in the form of case reports that could provide valuable investigative information which would lead to the arrest of the offenders, but are sometimes stymied in obtaining the reports due to concerns by police agencies, holding said reports, of liability that these reports would be improperly released to the public by the receiving agency. This fear of litigation impedes the release of information while these reports are vetted by town or state legal representatives. In some cases information is redacted by the originating agency making the reports useless for investigative purposes. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was designed to keep the public informed and is hallmark of a transparent state and local government. The fear of litigation resulting from improperly released information should not shield criminal conduct.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association is in support of the raised bill which in simple terms shifts the liability to the receiving agency for the release of reports under the Freedom of Information Act. The CPCA is not proposing any change which restricts the transparency of information under FOIA but merely substituting language which allows for the timely exchange of information, releasing the originating agency of any potential liability from said information being released improperly to the public.